

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

DRC-01 AID-20 /165 W

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R 032250Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0976

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 4817

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ELAB

SUBJECT: ORIT/AFL-CIO CONFLICT

SUMMARY: PRINCIPAL GUATEMALAN LABOR LEADER ADVISED US OF ANTICIPATED CONFRONTATION BETWEEN AFL-CIO AND ORIT LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE IN MEXICO IN LATE OCTOBER AND ASKED THAT USG USE ITS INFLUENCE TO SOFTEN CONFLICT. END SUMMARY.

1. ARTURO MORALES CUBAS, PRINCIPAL LEADER OF ORIT'S GUATEMALAN AFFILIATE (THE FEDERATED WORKERS' CENTRAL-CTF), ADVISED US THAT HE EXPECTS SERIOUS CONFRONTATION BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN AND US MEMBERS OF ORIT AT A LATE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION TO BE HELD IN MEXICO. MORALES SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY ARTURO JAUREGUI TO CONTACT EMBASSY TO SOLICIT ASSISTANCE OF USG IN SOFTENING EXPECTED CONFLICT. ACCORDING TO MORALES, SITUATION AROSE OVER AFL-CIO INSISTENCE ON CLOSER SCRUTINY OF ORIT ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY USE OF FUNDS WHICH HE NOTED COME MAINLY FROM AFL-CIO. MORALES, QUOTING JAUREGUI, SAID OCTOBER MEETING WOULD SEE STRIDENT ATTACKS AGAINST AFL-CIO AND AIFLD FOR

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"INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF LATIN

TRADE UNIONS." HE CLAIMED MOST VICIOUS ATTACKS WOULD COME FROM MEXICANS.

2. MORALES PROFESSED TO BE OPPOSED TO CONFRONTATION, WHICH HE SAID WOULD BENEFIT ONLY COMMUNIST AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC RELATED LABOR GROUPS. HE SAID HE HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO ATTEND MEETING BUT INDICATED HE IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM JAUREGUI TO DO SO.

3. IT APPEARS THAT MORALES IS CONCERNED THAT MEXICO MEETING WILL CONSIST OF UNPRODUCTIVE POLEMICS WHICH, IN THE END, WILL ONLY PREJUDICE CTF'S CONTINUED RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL AID FROM ORIT AND OF TRAINING ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG THROUGH AIFLD. HIS LONGATIME PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH JAUREGUI APPEARS INTIMATELY RELATED TO THE APPROACH AND HE PROBABLY BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL BE DISPOSED OR ABLE TO PREVENT A CONFRONTATION. WE CONJECTURE THAT JAUREGUI IS CALLING ON ALL HIS RESOURCES TO FORESTALL SHOWDOWN THAT MAY END HIS TENURE IN ORIT.

4. EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER TOLD MORALES THAT HIS AND JAUREGUI'S CONCERN WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY BE ABLE TO FURNISH ON THE AFL-CIO/ORIT PROBLEM AND PROPOSED MEETING IN MEXICO AND GUIDANCE FOR OUR USE SHOULD MORALES RAISE THIS ISSUE AGAIN.

DECONTROL DECEMBER 31, 1975.
DREYFUSS

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